



*Congressman*  
**BENNIE THOMPSON**  
 REPRESENTING THE SECOND DISTRICT OF MISSISSIPPI



## The Thompson Report

**What Is Homeland Security?**

**Securing America: We Cannot Afford To Get It Wrong**

**Protecting Rural America And Our Food Supply**

**Homeland Security And Immigration**

# MISSISSIPPI

AGRICULTURE  
 BLUES  
 HISTORY



## What Is Homeland Security?

After September 11th, 2001, it became clear to Congress that the federal government was not doing enough to protect America from terrorists. Before then, we thought our enemies were from countries who were competing with us to get the most weapons. Most of us couldn't imagine that our enemies were among us. The terrorists were enemies who had infiltrated America and using our own airplanes and building against us.

On that day, we learned that we had to change our thinking and start worrying about "homeland security."

Homeland Security — plain

and simple — is about protecting America. In Congress, we now have a Committee on Homeland Security, which I have been named the top Democrat on. That Committee is going to work to make sure that everyone who is working to protect America here at home has the resources, attitude, and ability to get the job done.

My Committee will look at whether our ports and borders are secure. We will make sure that chemical and nuclear plants, as well as our water supply, is protected. We will look at protecting our food

***"Homeland Security—plain and simple—is about protecting America."***

*(Continued on page 3)*

## Securing America: We Cannot Afford To Get It Wrong

Since the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, the federal government has taken measures to protect us from future attacks. Many of these measures involve protecting our airports, seaports, and train stations. I am

sure some of you have probably had to take your shoes off at the airport or have had your bags searched when you travel to visit friends and family. The goods that are coming into the Second District often originate elsewhere

and come through large ports that could easily be attacked by terrorists.

I am all for preventive measures designed to protect us, but the measures must be done in a way that does not damage the benefits we receive from

our transportation systems. We rely on these systems for travel and for items that stock the shelves at our local stores. If these systems remain unprotected, terrorists will continue to cause a

*(Continued on page 2)*

**Serving:** Attala, Bolivar, Carroll, Claiborne, Coahoma, Copiah, Hinds, Holmes, Humphreys, Issaquena, Jefferson, Leake, Leflore, Madison, Montgomery, Quitman, Sharkey, Sunflower, Tallahatchie, Tunica, Warren, Washington, Yazoo

## Protecting Rural America And Our Food Supply

***"We must protect our food supply from field to fork, by making sure food production, manufacturing and transportation systems cannot be attacked by terrorists."***

The Average U.S. Farmer feeds 144 people around the world, every day. Making sure this productivity continues is important to the survival of this country and the world. We must protect our food supply from the field to the fork, by making sure food production, manufacturing and transportation systems cannot be attacked by terrorists.

We know that terrorists like the Al Qaeda group intend

to harm America's farmers. After the September 11 attacks, handbooks discussing crop and livestock production were found in terrorist hideouts.

America is at risk for agro-terrorism but we are not prepared. If cattle were infected with foot and mouth disease, we would not be able to vaccinate them fast enough because the supply we have here can only be activated in Great Britain. A single truckload of

contaminated hogs could spread disease to 25 states within five days before it is detected. If a terrorist deliberately attacked U.S. farms, the effects would be felt immediately because no major U.S. city has more than a seven-day supply of food.

Over two years ago, the Department of Homeland Security was tasked with developing a plan to keep our food supply safe from field to fork, but that has not

been done to date. I believe it is time to hold the Department of Homeland Security accountable. We need to put a plan in action to protect America's farms and our families. We need to get homeland security right.

For more information, please contact Zahra Buck in my Washington, DC office at 202-225-5876.



Visit Congressman Thompson on the Web at [www.house.gov/thompson](http://www.house.gov/thompson).

## Securing America: We Cannot Afford To Get It Wrong



*Picture courtesy of Committee on Homeland Security*

great deal of harm to our families and our economy. To ensure that we get our homeland security measures right, this Administration must make sure that security measures are part of a well thought-out plan. Many security programs are not working because of a lack of staff and funding. Until our government has the right plan coupled with the right funding, I think that a great deal of time and money will continue to be wasted without making us safer. For

***"Until our government has the right plan coupled with the right funding, ... time and money will continue to be wasted without making us safer."***

example, the Department of Homeland Security has several port security programs that serve the same

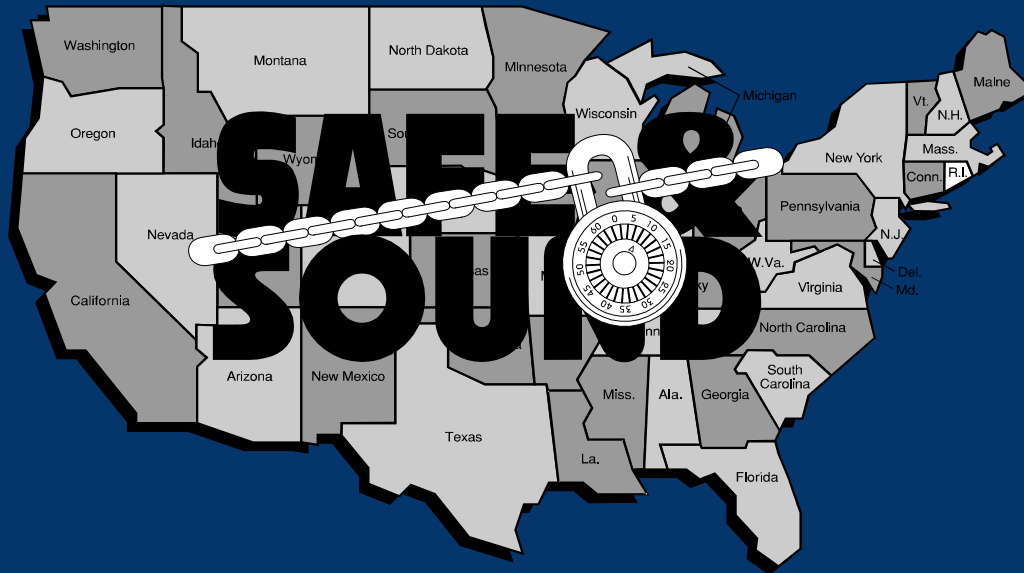
function. This means that your hard-earned tax dollars are being wasted. At the same time, some airports do not have enough screeners to ensure we do not have to wait in long lines. The Bush Administration must move quickly to get these measures right because we cannot afford for them to get it wrong.

For more information, please contact Zahra Buck in my Washington, DC office at 202-225-5876.

## What Is Homeland Security?

supply and our trains and airplanes. We will even look at how to protect our computer networks from attacks. One thing of vital importance to me that we will do — make sure that first responders — EMT, firemen, and police — have what they need to respond to a 9-11 attack.

For more information, please call Zahra Buck in my Washington, DC office at 202-225-5876.



Visit Congressman Thompson on the Web at [www.house.gov/thompson](http://www.house.gov/thompson).

## Homeland Security And Immigration

An important part of the mission of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) is preventing dangerous people from getting into the United States. While we must keep out bad people. We must do this without profiling people by ethnicity, race or religion. Furthermore, while we must continue to make our borders more secure, we have to ensure that we resist the temptation to build a fence around ourselves. My mission as the top De-

mocrat on the Committee is to make sure that the DHS is getting it right so that the American people are safer.

I have some real concerns about our broken immigration system. Today, there are millions of illegal immigrants living in our country in the shadows of society. At the same time, families wait for years for relatives to join legal residents and U. S. Citizens from overseas and businesses are not able to get

necessary workers. Our current immigration laws are not working to prevent illegal immigration, but seem to be hurting families and businesses.

So what do we do? We need Congress to pass A—Z immigration reform that changes our existing broken system. Now is the time to get it right. We need an immigration system that demonstrates a respect for our nation's borders, deals with the reality of those illegal liv-

ing in the U. S., respects human rights and safeguards our labor laws. Just about every one of us has some link to an immigrant past— and immigration tied to the national interest is good for America and will make America stronger. For more information, please contact Zahra Buck in my Washington, DC office at 202-225-5876.

United States Representative Bennie G. Thompson  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Email: ThompsonMS2nd@mail.house.gov



Congressman Bennie G. Thompson, Ranking Member of the Homeland Security Committee responds to President Bush's State of the Union address. To read his response and to find out the latest on Homeland Security please visit the United States House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security—Democratic Office at <http://www.house.gov/hsc/democrats/>.

★ **Washington, D.C.**  
2432 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-5876  
(202) 225-5898 (Fax)

★ **Bolton**  
107 West Madison Street  
Bolton, Mississippi 39041  
(601) 866-9003  
(601) 866-9036 (Fax)  
(800) 355-9003 (In State)

★ **Greenville**  
910 Courthouse Lane  
Greenville, Mississippi 38701  
(662) 335-9003  
(662) 334-1304 (Fax)

★ **Greenwood**  
509 Highway 82 West  
Greenwood, Mississippi 38930  
(662) 455-9003  
(662) 453-0118 (Fax)

★ **Marks**  
Quitman County Court House  
335 Peach Street  
Marks, Mississippi 38646  
(662) 326-9003

★ **Mound Bayou**  
Mound Bayou City Hall  
Room 134  
106 West Green Street  
Mound Bayou, Mississippi 38762  
(662) 741-9003  
(662) 741-9002 (Fax)